

REMARKS

New claims 21-24 are presented for examination. Claims 1-20 are now canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The obviousness rejections set forth in sections 4 and 5 are moot as a result of the claim amendments set forth above. New claim 21 is directed to the arrangement illustrated by way of example in Figure 7, which shows a lens array 104 arranged on a detector 10, with each lens of the lens array 104 and each light receiving element of the group of light receiving elements corresponding 1 to 1 as claim 21 defines. Figure 7 also shows the group of light receiving elements and the lens array 104 as "unified."

The present invention relates to a personal identification device that uses blood vessel patterns. The personal identification device has a flat sensor, including the lens array, but is a *non-contact* type of device. Attention is respectfully directed to the Nagasaka et al. ('234) patent, which identifies some of the same inventors as those identified in the present application. As noted in column 4, lines 55-60 of this patent, the finger of a user does not touch the glass plate. If the user's finger does touch the glass plate, blood vessels may be compressed, as noted in line 59 of column 4, and a hemal may be missed or obscured, as described in column 2, lines 8-10. For a non-contact type of device, the lens array used to correct for the light scattered by a finger is an essential. If only filters 101, 102, shown in Figure 6, are used and the distance of a sensor and a finger separates at the time of non-contact, diffusion becomes excessively large, a perpendicular component decreases relatively, and contrast falls. By correcting the light scattered about on the surface of the finger using the lens

array, contrast can be increased, and the arrangement can be used as a non-contact type of device.

The Nagasaka et al. ('234) patent does not disclose a lens array. The Nagasaka et al. patent discloses a camera 114 (Figures 1 and 2) including a lens having a large size, and not an array of small sized lenses. The Chou ('250) patent fails to disclose a lens array or a lens *per se*.

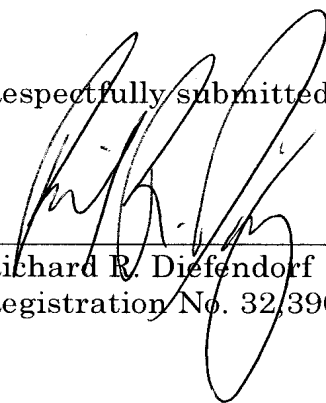
The Kurematsu ('218) patent refers to a SELFOC lens 21 in line 6 of column 24, and illustrates such a lens in Figure 6, but is directed to a printer, such as a thermal-type printer. The recording material 8 shown in Figure 6 and referred to in line 13 of column 24 thermal paper. Reference number 23 in Figure 6 identifies a sensor, as described in column 25, line 49. The sensor 23 is used for adjusting a mirror device 3, as discussed in lines 49-56 of column 25. The sensor 23 is not used for either producing living body target feature information or personal identification. As shown in Figure 6 of the Kurematsu ('218) patent, the recording object (paper) 8 can be introduced between the SELFOC lens (lens array) 21 and the detector 23. The Kurematsu ('218) patent, accordingly, fails to disclose that a group of light receiving elements and a lens array are unified as claim 21 defines.

It is respectfully submitted that the limitations in new claim 21 directed to the distinguishing features discussed above serve to patentably differentiate the invention as defined by claim 21 from the collective disclosures previously relied on by the Examiner. All other newly added claims depend on claim 21 and should be patentable along with claim 21.

This application, as a whole, should now be in allowable condition. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 056205.57280US.

Respectfully submitted,



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